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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CU-04 PM-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/077 W
---------- 078139
R 161231 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977
INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINS, SCUL, PO
SUBJ: UNREST AT LISBON UNIVERSITY

REF: LISBON 1632

1. LISBON UNIVERSITY SCENE REMAINS UNSETTLED IN AFTERMATH MAY 3 SHOOTING INCIDENT AT MAIN CAMPUS (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED STUDENT NOW REPORTEDLY OUT OF DANGER (AFTER WEEK ON CRITICAL LIST), PRINCIPAL ISSUE-- PRESENCE ON CAMPUS OF SPECIAL SECURITY GUARDS-- IS STILL UNRESOLVED.

2. ON MAY 9 LETTERS FACULTY AUTHORITIES REJECTED RENEWED STUDENT DEMANDS (REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY JUNIOR FACULTY MEMBERS) CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF SECURITY GUARDS. ON MAY 10 EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY POLICE. EMBOFF SAW 10 BUSLOADS OF POLICE, FOUR AMBULANCES AND MOTORIZED WATER CANNON ON CAMPUS OR IN VICINTIY IN ADDITION TO FIFTY- MAN CRACK RIOT
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POLICE DETACHMENT FULLY EQUIPPED AND WITH DOGS.

3. ON MAY 11 CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SCHOOL GUARDS BROUGH POLICE INTERVENTION. IN RESULTING SCUFFLE THREE STUDENTS WERE INJURED AND TURNED OVER TO SECURITY POLICE. STUDENTS SAY MANY OTHERS ARRESTED.

4. ON MAY 14 LETTERS FACULTY DIRECTOR ORDERED SCHOOL CLOSED INDEFINITELY. MEETING OF DIRECTOR AND PROFESSORS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15 TO DECIDE NEXT STEPS. HIGHLY POLITICIZED ENGINEERING FACULTY (IST) ALSO SHUT DOWN AFTER STUDENTS APPROVED SYMPATHY STRIKE. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSOR, IST STUDENT LEADERS TAKING RADICAL POSITIONS IN EFFORT ELICIT SUPPORT IN A STUDENT ASSOCIATION ELECTION LATER THIS MONTH.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ANTICIPATED RECOVERY OF WOUNDED STUDENT AND FIRM ACTON BY POLICE AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAS SOMEWHAT REDUCED PROSPECTS FOR ESCALATION OF UNIVERSITY DISORDERS, SITUATION REMAINS FLUID. ISSUE OF GUARDS REMAINS, AND COULD LEAD TO FURTHER INCIDENTS WHICH COULD RING DOWN CURTAIN EARLY ON TROUBLED ACADEMIC YEAR.
POST

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Subject: UNREST AT LISBON UNIVERSITY
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To: EUR
LOURENCO MARQUES
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OPORTO
PONTA DELGADA
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